

Dear all,

Happy New Year. Yes, it's Advent – that time of the year in the church's calendar when we begin the New Year. This year is Year C in the lectionary, the book that tells us what the readings are for each service. Year C is mainly Luke's Gospel – the Gospel that is traditionally written by the physician and companion of Paul. It is a Gospel that deals more with the 'ordinary' people, and focuses more on women than other Gospels. At the beginning of the Gospel, Luke sets out his purpose, to write an orderly account of the life of Jesus from eyewitness testimony. It is addressed to Theophilus, that he may learn the truth about the things in which he has been instructed. Theophilus may have been a real person – it was a common enough name. However, the name means 'one who loves God', and so might just be a generic title for all the readers. I like to think it may be so.

Advent takes up an interesting perspective on life from the Jewish background of the Christian faith. In Jewish thinking, a day begins with the night, leading into the day. And so, Christmas is preceded by the 'night-time of Advent' – not a time of darkness as such, but a time of quiet and reflection, of refreshment before the light of Christmas blazes forth. A time of preparation...

The hymns for the morning are: [Come, thou long expected Jesus : St John's College Choir, Cambridge - YouTube](#), [I Cannot Tell - YouTube](#) and [Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding \(Tune: Merton - 5vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

The readings are Jeremiah 33: 14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end; Luke 21: 25-36. The Psalm is Psalm 25: 1-9

Anglican Chant [Psalm 25 "Unto Thee, O Lord, Will I Lift Up My Soul" - YouTube](#)

A modern take on the Psalm [Psalm 25 \(Show Me Your Ways\) by The Psalms Project \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

And by Graham Kendrick [To You O Lord I lift up my soul \(Psalm 25\) Graham Kendrick - YouTube](#)

Anthems etc. suggested for this Sunday include:

[Hills Of The North - YouTube](#) Herbert Howells

[Haendel - Messiah - And the glory of the Lord - Jacobs - YouTube](#)

[Bach - Cantata Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 140 - Van Veldhoven | Netherlands Bach Society - YouTube](#)

You might also enjoy this take on O come, O come Emmanuel [O come, O come, Emmanuel - \(Piano/Cello\) - The Piano Guys - YouTube](#)

Don't forget tomorrow evening is our Advent Carol Service – a mixture of hymns and choir carols/anthems – some familiar, some perhaps new. 6.00pm.

Also, don't forget to sign up to the Advent book course (sheet at the back of church) and to the Virtual Posada).

And another don't forget... **Saturday 4th December** at 7.00pm in the hall. Music and Poetry Evening.
(Bookings in advance please for catering) £6.00 per ticket, children of school age free. This will be a fun event with entertainment, mulled wine and mince pies.



Stay safe.

Blessings and love

Mark